

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION FROM WARD DRAINAGE FUNDS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of North Little Rock (“the City”) is committed to maintaining vibrant, healthy and well-maintained neighborhoods as part of its ongoing development strategy; and

WHEREAS, clean, well-groomed and attractive neighborhoods will enhance property values and promote the safety and general well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to encourage beautification of city neighborhoods, the City Council wishes to establish a grant program available to qualified recipients for the enhancement of neighborhoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That a Neighborhood Beautification Grant Program is hereby established for the purpose of granting awards to be used for neighborhood improvements pursuant to the following:

- (a) The grant awards will be administered from ward drainage funds.
- (b) Qualified recipients will be non-profit organizations or corporations organized and operating in accordance with state and federal law.
- (c) Funds will be used exclusively for supplies and materials to improve and beautify neighborhoods. No salaries or wages will be paid from the funds.
- (d) Grant funds will be used for the benefit of public areas or facilities, *not* private property.
- (e) Grant awards will not exceed \$1,000 per grant. No recipient may receive more than one (1) grant per calendar year.
- (f) Grant recipients must complete and sign an agreement form to be approved by both aldermen of the ward in which the neighborhood is located. The grant agreement will be filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

SECTION 2: That all Neighborhood Beautification grant awards will be appropriated from each ward's drainage funds. Total annual grant appropriations from each ward will not exceed Fifteen Thousand & 00/100 Dollars (\$15,000.00).

SECTION 3: That the City Attorney's Office is directed to prepare a Grant Agreement form to be used by applicants. Such form will contain the name and address of the applicant, what the funds are to be used for, where the improvements are to be made, when the project will be started, and its anticipated completion date. The application/agreement must be approved by both aldermen of the ward and filed with the City Clerk's Office, with a copy sent to the Finance Department, before grant proceeds will be disbursed.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5: That the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any section, phrase or provision shall be declared or held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

SECTION 6: It is hereby found and determined that the adoption of this Ordinance is immediately necessary to insure the proper and orderly growth of the City of North Little Rock, Arkansas and is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare; THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Patrick H. Hays

SPONSORS:

ATTEST:

Alderman Linda Robinson

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

Alderman Maurice Taylor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

C. Jason Carter, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/b